REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the

present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests entry of

this preliminary amendment prior to action on the merits, and requests early allowance of all pending

claims. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite

prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned

at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required

for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit

any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith,

as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit

Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By

Eric D. Cohen

Registration No. 38,110

December 16, 2003

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